

gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] for bringing the matter to the attention of the House, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS].

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this is a great bill.

I would like to thank the subcommittee chairman on forest and forest health, the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH], and I would also like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa for both of their assistance and rapidly bringing this legislation to the floor.

H.R. 985 has already been described, but let me tell my colleagues that it has strong support from Summit County Open Space Advisory Counsel, the Summit County Board of County Commissioners, the Wilderness Land Trust, the Sierra Club and a number of other organizations.

This bill makes a lot of sense. I do not know of any opposition that exists out there, nor do I know of any reason for any opposition to come forth, and I think the bill will pass unanimously.

This noncontroversial legislation, as I have stressed, provides that a 160-acre Slate Creek Parcel of Summit County will be added to the Eagle's Nest Wilderness and administered as a part of the wilderness area.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is a good, good bill.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Slate Creek addition—H.R. 985—and in support of Congress' action to enlarge our wilderness areas and preserve open space. The amount of undisturbed land across the United States is quickly declining. Everywhere farmlands, woodlands, forests are being developed. Something must be done to stop the development of these areas and preserve open space.

That is why I wanted to make a statement today in support of H.R. 985. While I have never seen the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area, I am confident that it is a wonderful place enjoyed by thousands of Americans every year. Adding 160 acres to this wilderness area is a great accomplishment that should be commended. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed into law legislation that would add Shadmoor to the Amagansett Wildlife Refuge on Long Island, NY. This transfer of property is not yet complete but it, like the Slate Creek tract, is one of a handful of properties eligible for inclusion in our public land programs. We should all be working in Congress to identify tracts of land that should be preserved from development.

I commend Congressman MCINNIS' leadership in regard to saving the Slate Creek tract from development and for working to include it in the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area and urge my colleagues to vote in support of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional speakers and at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time

□ 1545

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 985, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 985, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

EXTENDING CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, EXEMPTIONS, AND IMMUNITIES TO HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 342) to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong economic and trade offices.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 342

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, EXEMPTIONS, AND IMMUNITIES TO HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES.

(a) APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT.—The provisions of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) may be extended to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions as such provisions may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.

(b) APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION.—The President is authorized to apply the provisions of Article I of the Agreement on State and Local Taxation of Foreign Employees of Public International Organizations, done at Washington on April 21, 1994, to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

(c) DEFINITION.—The term "Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices" refers to Hong Kong's official economic and trade missions in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] and the gen-

tleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER].

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume first to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of the measure before us this afternoon, S. 342, a bill extending certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong's economic and trade offices after the reversion of Hong Kong to China. These Hong Kong offices are presently part of the British Embassy and its consulates, and while Hong Kong will revert to Chinese sovereignty on June 30 of this year, United States policy is to treat it as an autonomous entity for trade and economic purposes.

The enactment of this measure will ensure that its economic and trade offices will not fall under the auspices of the Chinese Embassy and will be given the necessary privileges and status to enable them to continue functioning independently.

This bill does not provide diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities from the trade officials in these offices. Rather, it ensures that they would be eligible for the same status as that accorded other international organizations. Most importantly, it provides the core protections that the trade and economic offices need to perform their functions in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER], the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for his leadership in bringing this measure before the House today and in ensuring that we continue to accord a high priority in our policies toward Hong Kong.

Notwithstanding my support for this resolution, let us recognize that Hong Kong lost its autonomy when Beijing declared that the elected legislature is going to be replaced by one appointed by Beijing. There will be no freedom or autonomy in Hong Kong if Beijing nullifies the ordinances protecting individual rights. Hong Kong's trade offices will just be an extension of government in Beijing unless the people of Hong Kong can elect their own representatives and if there are laws that will enshrine their rights. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge prompt adoption of this measure.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.